

SEP 06 2011

JULIA C. DUDLEY, CLERK
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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
CHARLOTTESVILLE DIVISION

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

TERRY L. DOWDELL, et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 3:01CV00116

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

By: B. WAUGH CRIGLER
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE

This action is before the undersigned in accordance with an Order entered on August 19, 2011, under authority of 28 U.S.C. §§ 636(b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B), and (b)(3), directing the undersigned to conduct proceedings necessary to determine the necessity and justice of the requested compensation and reimbursements and to render a recommended disposition for the Receiver's August 16, 2011 Thirty-Third Application for Allowance of Compensation and Expenses for Receiver ("Thirty-Third Application" or "Application"). For the following reasons, the undersigned RECOMMENDS that the presiding District Judge enter an Order GRANTING, in part, and DENYING, in part, the Receiver's Thirty-Third Application. The Application should be GRANTED to the extent that the expenses in the amount of \$155.58 are approved, the Receiver's fees in the amount of \$8,091.40 are approved, and the Receiver should be AWARDED the holdback in the amount of \$27.48¹.

BACKGROUND

¹ The Receiver is seeking payment of the holdback in the amount of \$2,015.98. For the reasons set forth, this amount should be reduced by \$1,988.50.

On July 12, 2002, the court entered an Order appointing Roy M. Terry, Jr. and the law firm of DuretteBradshaw PLC as Receiver for the benefit of the investors to handle the assets of defendants Terry L. Dowdell, Dowdell Dutcher & Associates, Inc., and Emerged Market Securities, DE-LLC. (Dkt. No. 243, p. 2.) The Order provides that all compensation for the Receiver and any personnel retained by the Receiver are to be paid out of the assets in which defendants held a legal or equitable interest. (Dkt. No. 243, p. 4.) Subsequent Orders appointed the Receiver over defendants Authorized Auto Service, Inc. and Vavasseur Corporation. (Dkt. Nos. 288, 381.)

On September 12, 2002, the court entered an Order (“Administrative Order”) establishing administrative procedures and approving the engagement of the accounting firm Keiter, Stephens, Hurst, Gary & Shreaves, P.C. (“Accountant”). (Dkt. No. 287.) The Administrative Order approved the hourly fees submitted by the Receiver for individual attorneys, including both associates and partners, with hourly rates ranging from \$130 to \$300.¹ (Dkt. No. 268, Exhibit B.) The Administrative Order also sets hourly rates for paralegals working for the Receiver at hourly rates ranging from \$70 to \$90.² (*Id.*)

The Receiver’s first motion to modify the Administrative Order was filed on June 9, 2004, at which time, the Receiver sought an hourly rate increase. (Dkt. No. 531.) On September 30, 2004, the court granted the Receiver’s motion approving new hourly rates for counsel

¹The hourly rates charged by the Receiver’s counsel were less than their standard hourly rates. For instance, Roy M. Terry, Jr.’s standard hourly rate was \$225, but the hourly rate he charged was \$200. (Dkt. No. 268, Exhibit B, p. 1.)

²The hourly rates charged by the Receiver’s staff were also less than their standard hourly rates. (*Id.*)

ranging from \$145 to \$300 and paralegal hourly rates ranging from \$80 to \$90. (*Id.* at Exhibit A; Dkt. No. 551.)

On May 12, 2006, the Receiver moved to amend the Administrative Order a second time. (Dkt. No. 618.) The motion was granted on June 9, 2006, and both Receiver's counsel and paralegals were permitted to increase their hourly rates. (Dkt. No. 623.) The new hourly rates for counsel ranged from \$153 to \$ 312, and the new paralegal hourly rates ranged from \$80 to \$146. (Dkt. No. 618, Exhibit A.)

On October 1, 2008, the Receiver filed a third motion to modify the Administrative Order seeking an increase in the Receiver's fees. (Dkt. No. 785.) On October 21, 2008, the motion was granted. (Dkt. No. 788.)

On March 15, 2010, the Receiver filed a fourth motion to modify the Administrative Order to allow for an increase in the hourly rate charged by the Receiver. (Dkt. No. 852.) The court granted the Receiver's motion approving new hourly rates for counsel ranging from \$212 to \$315 and a new paralegal hourly rate of \$110. (Dkt. No. 865.)

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

In the Thirty-Third Application, the Receiver seeks approval of compensation in the amount of \$10,079.90 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$155.58 incurred between February 1, 2011 through April 30, 2011. (Application, pp. 2, 5, 7.) The Receiver has been reimbursed for eighty percent of his fees, together with the full amount of his claimed expenses, and he now seeks approval of the entire claim with an award of the holdback in the amount of \$2,015.98. (*Id.* at pp. 5, 7.)

The hourly rates charged in the Thirty-Third Application are consistent with those approved by the court's May 6, 2010 Order granting the Receiver's Fourth Motion to Modify. (Dkt. No. 865.) Thus, the undersigned finds that the Receiver is requesting compensation at a reasonable hourly rate.

The Receiver has billed for a total of 46.5 hours of work. (Application, pp. 3-5.) Of that, 7.5 hours is related to travel and participation in a press conference held on March 4, 2011. The undersigned is not inclined to compensate the Receiver for a press conference which serves no judicial function. Moreover, it appears the Receiver is seeking an unreasonable amount for time associated with travel to and from Charlottesville. Specifically, the Receiver has billed as follows: 2.5 hours traveling to and participating in the press conference in Charlottesville; 1.5 hours returning from Charlottesville; and 2.5 hours traveling to and from Charlottesville for the press conference. The Charlottesville courthouse is approximately 73 miles from the Receiver's office in Richmond, Virginia. Here, the time claimed in the amount of \$1,988.50 is either excessive or unwarranted.

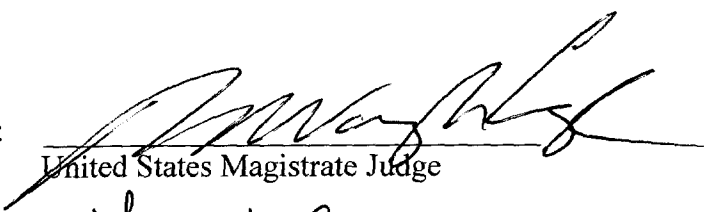
For the foregoing reasons, the undersigned RECOMMENDS that the presiding District Judge enter an Order GRANTING, in part, and DENYING, in part, the Receiver's Thirty-Third Application. The Application should be GRANTED to extent that the expenses in the amount of \$155.58 are approved, the Receiver's fees in the amount of \$8,091.40 are approved, and the Receiver should be AWARDED the holdback in the amount of \$27.48.

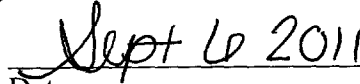
The Clerk is directed to immediately transmit the record in this case to the Honorable Norman K. Moon, United States District Judge. Those affected by this Report and Recommendation are reminded that pursuant to Rule 72(b) they are entitled to note objections, if

any they may have, to this Report and Recommendation within (14) days hereof. Any adjudication of fact or conclusion of law rendered herein by the undersigned not specifically objected to within the period prescribed by law may become conclusive upon the parties. Failure to file specific objections pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C) as to factual recitations or findings as well as to the conclusions reached by the undersigned may be construed by any reviewing court as a waiver of such objection.

The Clerk of the Court hereby is directed to send a certified copy of this Report and Recommendation to all counsel of record.

ENTERED:


United States Magistrate Judge


Date